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**B**OOKS are delightful when prosperity happily smiles; when adversity threatens, they are inseparable comforters. They give strength to human compacts, nor are grave opinions brought forward without books. Arts and sciences, the benefits of which no mind can calculate, depend upon books.

*RICHARD AUNGERVYLE.*

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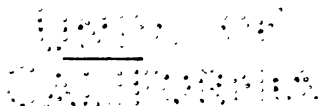
# HELPFUL HINTS IN ENGLISH

A COMPANION VOLUME TO  
"BETTER SAY." A BOOK OF  
HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR  
THE CORRECT USE OF ENG-  
LISH WORDS AND PHRASES

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# Introduction to Helpful Hints in English

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## IDIOMS AND ERRORS IN ENGLISH

AN IDIOM is not an error, and an error does not rise to the dignity of an idiom.

An idiom is a crisp, compact form of speech, full of condensed, vigorous meaning, but defiant of all rules of grammar or logic; as, *look out*, *let go*, *let alone*, *hold on* (meaning *stop*), I can't *stand it*, etc.

A Modern Greek student in an American college would say, when one of these forms was explained to him, "Ah! That is one of your *idiotisms*." The mistake of the purists is, that they hold every *idiom* to be an *idiotism*, and would weed out of the language all those terse expressions that can neither be parsed nor analyzed. They consider it dreadful to say, "*There is a man here who sells oysters*," for how can *there* be *here*? If the man is *there* he can not be *here*.

So they would go at our language with square, saw, and chisel, to shape it to system, as if a nurseryman were to scrape off in the spring every swelling bud that breaks the even contour of the bark.

The idiom is of ancient lineage and full of life; it comes down from an unanalytic past, when men thought, spoke, and lived, without too curiously asking why. It clings to the living speech, and can be really understood and felt only by coming into close touch with those who join the phrase with life and action. For the health and vigor of a language it is as needful to protect the idioms as to eradicate the errors; in fact, we could far better afford to tolerate some errors than to abolish all idioms. Hence, when we meet the purist with ax on his shoulder, we call out, "Woodman, spare that idiom!" We cling to the

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inheritance of the Anglo-Saxon toils and conquests on sea and shore, crystallized into the sparkling brilliancy of idiomatic English speech.

Errors by commonness may masquerade as idioms, but differ from them as being confused rather than condensed.

Errors in English may be :—

1. In the misuse of words and phrases, as of *statue* for *statute*, *respectively* for *respectfully*, *affect* for *effect*, etc. ; in the use of a good word in a false connection, as when the Irish-American “regretted that he was not born in his *native* country,” or in some parts of the West one will ask a stranger, “Where is your *native* home ?” ; or, perhaps, in the use of falsely formed words that have no real existence ; as, *irregardless*.

2. In false constructions ; as, “The president *does not* and never *has used* tobacco in any form ;” “He is taller than *me*.”

3. In mistaken pronunciation. In the spoken language *the pronunciation of the word is the word* ; the only element of communication between speaker and hearer is the *uttered* sound. False pronunciation may disguise a word so as to make it unrecognizable. A Boston shipping firm received from one of their captains the apparent cipher :

“Own to the bloked the vige is spilt.”

At last they discovered that the seaman had written phonetically as he pronounced, and that the message was :

“Owing to the blockade the voyage is spoilt”  
(Ow’n’ to the blok’ed the vige is spilt).

In less extreme cases a false pronunciation affects an educated hearer as a false note affects a musical ear, with a sense of jar and discord, as when one says *probyly* for *probably*. It is the purpose of the following pages to justify some of the best-known idioms against attack, and to correct some of the most common errors in English expression.



# KEY TO PRONUNCIATION

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The letters used in the phonetic respelling have the sounds given in the following table. The mark  $\sim$  under a letter, as *g*, indicates a colloquial weakening of the vowel-sound toward *u* in *but*. The mark  $\smile$  indicates that the colloquial weakening is toward *i* in *pity*.

a	as in <i>partake, monarch, breakfast, final</i> .
ä	as in <i>arm, alms, calm, father, martyr</i> .
g	as in <i>ask, chant, dance, fast, grasp</i> .
a	as in <i>at, add, man, random</i> .
ä	as in <i>fare, bear, fair, heir, there</i> .
ä	as in <i>alloy, accuse, madman</i> .
e	as in <i>pen, sunset, excuse, ferry, yet</i> .
e	as in <i>eclipse, epistle, elegant, element</i> .
e	as in <i>moment, absence, colonel</i> .
er	as in <i>ever, fern, bird, fir</i> .
ö	as in <i>fate, ale, aid, eight, play, they</i> .
ö	as in <i>usage, mountain, preface</i> .
i	as in <i>tin, it, divide, fill, miss</i> .
i	as in <i>machine, meet, eve, bier, serene</i> .
i	as in <i>react, remain, create</i> .
o	as in <i>obey, follow, eulogy, theory</i> .
ö	as in <i>no, glory, note, blow, over, foal</i> .
e	as in <i>not, odd, what, comma, forest, was</i> .
ö	as in <i>nor, abhor, ought, authority, walk</i> .
q	as in <i>actor, idiot, atom</i> .
u	as in <i>full, could, book, woman, put</i> .
ü	as in <i>rule, rude, food, unto, wooing</i> .
ü	as in <i>measure, injure, nature</i> .
ü	as in <i>but, tub, under, nation, hurry</i> .
ü	as in <i>burn, cur, curl, hurt, work, wort</i> .
ai	as in <i>pine, eye, ply, height, ice, fire</i> .
au	as in <i>out, thou, owl, bound, town</i> .
oi	as in <i>oil, boy, avoid, joint, moist</i> .
iu	as in <i>duration, mulatto</i> .
iü	as in <i>few, adduce, duty, mute</i> .
iü	as in <i>future, lecture, nature</i> .
c = k	as in <i>cat, epoch, sceptic, chasm, king</i> .
ch	as in <i>church, chair, match, chip, much</i> .
cw = qu	as in <i>queen, quite, quit, quality</i> .
dh (th)	as in <i>the, then, smooth, breathe</i> .
f	as in <i>fancy, sulfur, physic, laugh</i> .
g (hard)	as in <i>go, gun, game, dog</i> .
hw (wh)	as in <i>why, when, where, while</i> .
j	as in <i>jaw, gem, pigeon, religion, soldier</i> .
ng	as in <i>sing, long, tongue, flung</i> .
v	as in <i>ink, bank, junction, single</i> .
s	as in <i>sin, cell, city, vice, cypress</i> .
sh	as in <i>she, chaise, machine, ocean, social</i> .
th	as in <i>thin, worth, breath, pith, think</i> .
z	as in <i>zone, is, lives, music, wise</i> .
zh	as in <i>azure, treasure, ambrosia</i> .

# HELPFUL HINTS IN ENGLISH

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[The phonetics of this book are those of the *Scientific Alphabet* prepared by THE AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, adopted and recommended by THE AMERICAN SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION, and used in the Funk & Wagnalls STANDARD DICTIONARY. The sounds of the phonetic letters and diacritics will be readily understood by reference to the key-line at the foot of each page.]

## A

**a,** { *A* before a consonant sound (whatever the spelling);  
**an.** { *an* before a vowel sound (whatever the spelling); a word beginning with silent *h* (as *honest*, *honor*, etc.) takes *an*; a word beginning with the long sound of *u* (as *unit*, *university*, etc., where the *u* has the sound of *you*) takes *a*; we say *a* peach, *an* apple, *an* honor, *a* history, *a* humble worshiper, *a* historical subject, *a* unit, *a* union, *a* university, *a* uniform; the matter is euphonic; sound alone determines. An adjective between article and noun may change *a* to *an*, or the reverse; as, *a* man, *an* honest man; *an* apple, *a* ripe apple; *an* appeal, *a* humble appeal, etc.; the short sound of *u* takes *an*; as, *an* unknown quantity.

**a or an omitted.** "They were heirs to *large property*"; that is, inheritance of "large property" was the fact in the case of each independently; "heirs to *a* large property" would imply that they were jointly to inherit the same "property." The omission of "*a*" makes "property" generic, rather than particular. See **FEW**; **MANY**.

**above.** See **OVER AND ABOVE**.

**ac-cept'**, ac-sept'. } "All the specimens were *accepted*,  
**ex-cept'**, ec-sept'. } *except* one." To *accept* is "to take, receive"; to *except* is to "take out, reject." Do not confuse the two words.

**accept of.** The preposition is here not needed nor allowed. Say simply, "I *accept* your decision," etc.; *admit* and *approve* take *of*; *accept* and *permit* do not; there is no rule in the matter; each expression must be learned by itself.

**ad-dress'**, noun and verb. There is no authority for the very common pronunciation, *ad'dress*.

papā, ask; at, āir; element, thēy, nāēge; it, î, î (ee);  
o, ôh; orator, ôr; full, rûle; but, ūr; flûtiŋre (future);  
aisle; au (out); œil; c(k) chat; dh (the); go; sing,  
ink; thin.

**a-diē', a-dī'** { Do not make these final syllables alike  
**a-dō', a-dō'** { in sound; the first is -dī, like *deu*,  
*due*; the second is -dō, like *do*. "Marmion stopped to  
 bid *adieu*." "Much *Ado* about Nothing."

**ad-mis'si-ble**. Never spell this word *admissable*. For  
 the endings *-able* and *-ible*, a good dictionary must be  
 frequently consulted.

**a-dō'be, a-dō'bē**.

**a-dult', a-dult', not ad'ult**.

**adverbs** should be kept as close as possible to the word  
 or words they are to modify. "I meant to write to Tom  
*all day*." Probably not. That would involve an ex-  
 tremely long letter. You "meant *all day* to write to Tom."

Not all words in *-ly* are adverbs; *comely, kindly, manly*,  
*timely*, and others are adjectives. Do not attempt to  
 make such to order; never say "a *softly* tone," etc.

**ad'ver-tise'ment, ad'ver-taiz'ment or ad'ver'tiz-  
 ment**.

**a'er-o-naut, ê'gr-o-nēt; some authorities give êr'o-nēt  
 or âr'o-nēt**.

**a'er-o-plane, ê'gr-o-plên**.

**af-fect', af-fect'** { "The firemen were so badly *affected*  
**ef-fect', ef-fect'** { by the gas that they could scarcely  
*effect* the rescue." To *affect* is "to influence"; to *effect*,  
 "to accomplish, achieve." Do not confuse these words,  
 as is frequently done.

**ag'gran-dize'ment, ag'ran-daiz'ment or ag-gran'-  
 diz-ment**.

**a half an hour**. "I will do it in a *half an hour*."

If the article *a* is used, the expression should be, "*in a  
 half-hour*," using the hyphenated or compound noun.  
 It is better to apply the article simply to the noun *hour*,  
 and let the *half* precede (no hyphens): "I will do it in  
*half an hour*." So, *half a minute*, etc.

**a-lar'um, a-lâr'um or a-lar'um**.

**al'che-mist, al'kē-mist, not al-kem'ist**.

**al'ge-bra, al'jē-bra, not al'jē-brē**.

**al'i-ment, al'i-mēnt, not al'i-munt**.

**all**, { **All of** has proper but limited use. "How  
**all of**, { much of that shall I take?" "*All of it*." *All*  
 of is thus contrasted with a *part of*, as we may some-  
 times say "*the whole of it*." Even in such case it would  
 be correct to say, "Take it *all*," which would be more  
 elegant, but would not so easily and naturally express  
 the contrast between a part and the whole. Unless we  
 have some possible division in mind, *all* is far better  
 than *all of*; instead of "*All of us are here*," say "We  
 are *all here*"; instead of, "I have spent *all of the*  
 money," "I have spent *all the money*"; "*All the mem-  
 bers were present*," rather than "*All of the members*."  
 It would be ridiculous to say, "I love you with *all of*  
 my heart."

papī, qsk; at, āir; element, thēy, usēge; it, î; î (ee);  
 o, ôh; erator, êr; full, rûle; but,

**al-le'gro**, ðl-lê'grô, *not* al'le-grô.

**al-lude'**, æ-lūd', *not* al-lūd'.

**al-ly'**, æl-lai', verb and noun alike; *not* al'ly. "The *Al-lies* compelled Napoleon to abdicate." Similarly, "The Triple *Al-li'ance*."

**Al'pine**, al'pin; al'pain is also used.

**al'ter-nate**, al'ter-nêt or al-ter'nêt, *v.*

**al-ter'nate**, al-ter'net, *a. & n.*

**a-mour'**, æ-mūr'.

**an-ces'tral**, an-ses'tral.

**an-cho'vy**, an-chō'vi.

**and'l'ron**, and'ai'urn.

**an'gel**, ên'jel, *not* ên'jul.

"aout." See now.

**Ap'en-nines'**, ap'ên-nainz', *not* spelled Appenines *nor* Appennines.

**a'pl-a-ry**, ê'pi-ê-ri or q'pi-ê-ri.

**ap'i-ces**, ap'i-sîz.

**ap'pa-ra'tus**, ap'a-rê'tus or -rê'tus.

**ap-pen'di-ci'tis**, ap-pen'di-sai'tis or -sî'tis; the former preferred.

**approve**, } Both forms are correct, but with a recog-  
**approve of**. } nized difference in usage: *approve*, "to sanction officially"; "The president *approved* the finding of the court-martial"; *approve of* is "to regard with favor; think well of"; "I should not *approve of* your going." *Admit* and *admit of* are similarly distinguished.

**a'pron**, ê'prun or ê'purn.

**apt**, } These words are synonyms in the best usage.  
**ll'a-ble**, } Some purists have sought to rule *apt* out of the  
**like'ly**. } list because it may mean "quick to learn; skilful," etc., as when the Scripture says a bishop must be "*apt* to teach," or when we speak of "an *apt* pupil"; *apt* may also mean "pertinent, apposite," as "an *apt* quotation." The mistake of the purist always is to assume that if a word has one meaning it can have no other, while, in fact, there is scarcely a leading word in any language that can be held to a single meaning; thus the word *give* has more than twenty meanings; *apt* has, besides the meanings above mentioned, still another, which THE STANDARD DICTIONARY puts *first*, as most frequent in modern use, viz.: "Having a natural or habitual tendency; likely; liable." The distinction between *likely* and *liable* is that *likely* looks upon the probable event as favorable, *liable* as unfavorable; *likely* to succeed; *liable* to fail. *Apt* inclines toward the meaning of *likely*; it has a somewhat jarring effect to be told, "You'll be *apt* to drown"; "*liable* to drown" would be more appropriate.

**a'qua**, ê'cwa or q'cwa.

**arch'an'gel**, ðrk'ên'jel.

**arch'bish'op**, ðrch'bîsh'up. } *Arch* in the former  
word is pronounced

**ûr**; flûti'ûre (future); **aisle**; **au** (out); **œil**; **c** (k); **chat**; **dh** (the); **go**; **sing**, **înk**; **thin**.

as *ärk*; in the latter as *ärch*. The correct sound of this prefix in any compound must be learned by consulting the dictionary.

**aren't.** A correct form, but very harsh; to be avoided when possible. Often, by contracting the verb instead of the negative, we may use "We're *not*," "They're *not*," etc., which have a much pleasanter effect than "We *aren't*," "They *aren't*."

**ar'id, ar'id, not è'rid.**

**as,** needing a correlative *as*; *as* bad *as*, etc. See **THAN**.

**as-cent', as-sent'.** } *Ascent*, an arising; *assent*, agree-  
**as-sent', as-sent'.** } ment. Two words wholly different  
in meaning, pronounced alike, but distinguished by  
different spelling.

**as-par'a-gus, as-par'a-gus.**

**as-sent', as-sent', never as'ent.**

**as-so'ci-a'tion, as-sò'si-è'shun or as-sò'shi-è'shun.**

**at all,** } Two perfectly good idioms, despite the pur-  
**at that.** } lists; *at all* signifying, "in any way, respect,  
degree, or particular"; *at that* meaning, "even when  
that is conceded; in addition to that."

**at dinner.** See **FOR**.

**at'ta'ché, q'tg'shé'.**

**at'ti-tude, at'i-tüd, not at'i-tüd.**

**au'di-ence.** "The audience *were* large." No: "*was*  
large." You do not mean that the members were in-  
dividually of great size. See **PLURALS — COLLECTIVE**  
**NOUNS.**

**Au'gust, è'gust.** } *August* is the eighth month; that  
**au-gust', è-gust'.** } which is *august* is grand or imposing.

**aus'pi-ces, ès'pl-siz** (plural of *auspice*).

**au-tom'a-ton, è-tòm'a-tèn.**

**au'to-mo'bile, è'to-mò'bíl, a.; è'to-mò-bíl', n.**

**a'vi-a'tion, è'vi-è'shun or q'vi-è'shun.**

**a'vi-a'tor, è'vi-è'tør or q'vi-è'tør.**

**aye, è, ever; always; as, to live for aye** (forever).

**aye, ai, yes; as, "The ayes have it."**

## B

**ba-cil'lus, ba-sil'us, not bas'i-lus.**

**bas'ket, bgs'ket, not bgs'kut nor bgs'kit.**

**bas're-lief, bð're-líf'.**

**bat'on, bat'un or ba-tèn' or bð'tøn'.**

**belong.** The indefinite use of *belong* without any  
adjunct, though not recognized in literature, is becoming  
common; "Why weren't you at the meeting?" "I  
don't *belong*"—(to that society or the like, understood).  
If, as it seems, the use meets a popular need, it will  
probably establish itself.

**be-lov'ed, bə-luv'əd, a.** } As an adjective, three sylla-  
**be-loved', bə-luvd', pp.** } bles; as a participle, two syl-  
lables.

**papū, qsk; at, āir; element, thēy, usêge; it, î î (ee);**  
**o, ôh; oratør, èr; full, rûle; but,**

**be-neath'**, bē-nīth' or (less approved) bē-nīdh'.

**Ber'lin**, bē'r'līn or [G.] ber-līn'.

**between you and I.** No; "between you and *me*"; *between*, as a preposition, is followed by the objective case, as you see at once if no other words intervene before "*me*"; you say without question "between *me* and the door"; so, "between (you and) *me*." Similarly, say "between *him* and *me*."

**bit.** A *bit* is primarily a *dite*, and applies to solids. You may say, "a *bit* of bread," "a *bit* of money," but not "a little *bit* of water"; "a *bit* of soap," but not "a *bit* of soup."

**bi-tu'men**, bi-tlū'men or (less favored) bit'yu-men.

**bla'tant**, blē'tant, not blat'ant nor blā'tant.

**blouse**, blauz, not blaus.

**boat'swain**, bōt'swēn or (*Nautical*) bō'sn.

**bois'ter-ous**, bels'tēr-us, not bels'trus.

**bou'doir**, bū'dwār'.

**bouffe**, būf; final *e* not pronounced; as, opera *bouffe*.

**bouill'lon**, bū'yēn, bū'yēn', bū'lyēn, or [F.] bwī'yēn'.

**bou-quet'**, bū-kē', not bō-kē'.

**bra'vo**, brē'vō or brā'vō.

**bron-chi'tis**, brən-caī'tis or -kī'tis.

**bur'den**, būr'dn, not būr'den.

**bu-reau'cra-cy**, biū-rō'cra-sī.

**bu'reau-crat'ic**, biū-ro-crat'ic.

**bur-lesque'**, būr-lesc'.

**but that**, } "I don't doubt *but that* he will come."

**but what**. } Omit "but"; "*that* he will come" is what you "do not doubt." "I don't doubt *but what* he will come" is even worse, because you could not reverse it, even omitting "but"; you could not say "*what* he will come, I do not doubt." *That*, and *that* only, is here required. You may use either phrase rightly in some connections, where "but" means "except"; as, "I have no idea *but that* (except that) he will come"; "I ask nothing *but what* (except what) is right."

## C

**ca'fé**, cē'fē'. Two syllables, with chief accent on the last. The accented *e* (ē) in words derived from the French is always pronounced with the sound of long *a* (ē). Do not say, as one enterprising restaurant man did, that after some improvements he was "going to open a regular *cafe* (kēf)," pronouncing the word to rime with *safe*.

**cal'son**, kē'sēn.

**ca-lor'ic**, ca-lēr'ic.

**cal'o-rie**, cal'o-ri.

**cam'pa-ni'le**, cam'pa-nī'le.

**ca-nine'**, ca-nain', not kē'nain.

**car'l-ca-ture**, car'l-ca-chūr or -tūr.

**ūr**; fīūtjūre (future); **aisle**; **au** (out); **oil**; **c** (k); **chat**; **dh** (the); **go**, **sing**, **ink**; **thin**.

**ca-rot'id**, ca-ret'id.

**cel'lo**, chel'ō, *not* sel'ō.

**ce-ment'**, eg-ment'.

**cer'tain**, sēr'tēn, *not* sern.

**chai-ced'o-ny**, cal-sed'o-ni.

**cha'let'**, shq'lē'.

**cha-lyb'e-ate**, ca-lib'g-et or -ēt.

**cham'ois**, sham'i; the Century prefers sham'we, and Murray sham'el.

**chap'er-on**, shap'gr-on or shap'gr-en.

**chas'tise-ment**, chas'tiz-ment or chas-taiz'ment.

**chau'f'feur'**, shō'fgr', *not* shē'fgr', as if spelled shaw'-fer, nor, as Mr. Dooley exquisitely puts it, "the shover."

**chie**, shic.

**chif'fon**, shif'qn or shi'fōn'.

**chif'fo-nier'**, shif'o-nir'.

**chim-pan'zee**, preferably chim-pan'zi, though chim-pan-zi' is allowed.

**chi-rog'ra-fy**, cal-rēg'ra-fi.

**chi-rop'o-dist**, cal-rēp'o-dist. All similar compounds of *chiro-* (from the Greek *cheir*, hand) give the *ch* the sound of *k* and the *i* the sound of *ai*.

**Chris'tian**, cris'chian, cris'chan, or cris'tian.

**Chris'ti-an'i-ty**, cris'chi-an'i-ti; Murray prefers cris'-ti-an'i-ti, and Webster cris-chan'i-ti.

**chrys'o-pra'sus**, kris'o-prē'sus.

**cin-cho'na**, sin-cō'na.

**cli'en-tele'**, clai'en-tīl' or -tel'.

**co'ad-ju'tor**, cō'ad-jū'tgr.

**co-ag'u-late**, co-ag'yu-lēt.

**cog-no'men**, ceg-nō'men, *not* ceg'no-men.

**coif'fure**, coi'fiur or cwq'fūr'.

**co'ma-tose**, cō'ma-tōs or cēm'a-tōs.

**come'ly**, cum'li, *not* cōm'li.

**com'plai-sance'**, cēm'plē-zgns' or cēm'plē-zgns'.

**com'plai-sant'**, cēm'plē-zgnt'.

**com'plex**, cēm'plex', *a.*; cēm'plex, *n.*

**com-plex'ion**. *Not complexion.* For words with this sound, as *affection*, etc., see X.

**considerable**. An adjective often misused as an adverb; as, "*considerable* hot"; "*considerable* tired." The adverb *considerably* should be used in such connections.

**con'strue**, cēn'strū.

**cor-ral'**, cōr-ral'.

**co-yo'te**, co-yō'te or coi'ōt.

**credible**, } *Credible* refers to things to be believed;

**credulous**. { *credulous* to persons who may believe them; *incredible* and *incredulous* are similarly distinguished. A *credulous* person will believe *incredible* things; a skeptical person may be *incredulous* of what is perfectly *credible*.

papā, ask; at, āir; element, thēy, usēge; it, ĭ, î (ee); o, ōh; oratgr, ōr; full, rûle; but,

**cul'·de·sac'**, cū·dg·sac' or cūl'·dg·sac'. [F.] A passage or road that has no outlet. New England farmers have Anglicized it, not inappropriately, as *cruelty-sack*.  
**cy'no-sure**, sai'no-shūr or sin'o-shūr.

## D

**da'ta**, dê'ta or dg'ta. This word is the plural of the Latin *datum*; its use as a singular, "The data is adequate," though often found, is incorrect; the expression should be "The data are."

**der'o-gate**, der'o-gêt. — **der'o-ga'tion**. — **de-rog'a-to-ry**.

**det'es-ta'tion**, det'es-tê'shun or dî'tes-tê'shun.

**det'o-nate**, det'o-nêt.

**di'a-mond**, dai'a-mund, *not* dai'mund.

**di-oc'e-san**, dai-es'g-san or dai'o-sî'san.

**diph-the'ri-a**, dif-thî'ri-a, *not* dip-thî'ri-a.

**diph'thong**, dif'theng, *not* dip'thong.

**dis'ha-bille'**, dis'a-bîl' or -bîl.

**di-shev'el**, di-shev'el.

**distinction**. "In distinction *to*" is sometimes found, but "in distinction *from*" is better; we say, "This is *distinct from* that," "*distinguish* light *from* darkness," etc. The same usage would seem to cover *distinction*, and require it also to be followed by *from*. But we say "in contradistinction *to*," the "contra-" giving the effect of opposition rather than separation.

**di-vert'**, di-vgrt'. — **di-ver'sion**.

**di-vest'**, di-vest'.

**doc'ile**, des'll or dō'sil, *not* dō'sail.

**doubt**. Properly followed by *that*; "I don't *doubt that* he saw me," or "I have no *doubt that*," etc. *Doubt but*, *doubt but that*, and *doubt but what* are incorrect expressions. See BUT THAT.

**down town**. See NOW.

**duc'at**, duc'at, *not* dū'cat.

**due**, { *Due* and *dew*, while different in spelling and  
**dew**, { meaning, are alike in pronunciation, dū; *do*  
**do**. { stands by itself, pronounced dū (doo).

**due**, { "*Owing* to the delay, the enterprise failed,"  
**owing**. { or "The failure of the enterprise was *due* to the delay." Both sentences are right and nearly identical in meaning. But, "*Due* to the delay, the enterprise failed" is harsh and unjustifiable; for in this case the adjective has no noun with which to agree. Worse, if possible, is the sentence, "The enterprise failed, *due* to the delay." What is that "due" doing there? It can not agree either with "enterprise" or "delay." And is thus left as an unattached adjective, wandering loose. Why is not the case as bad for *owing*? Because *owing* is a participle, and retains something of the power of the

**ŭr**; flū'tjŭre (future); **aisle**; **au** (out); **œil**; **c** (k); **chat**;  
**dh** (the); **go**; **sing**, **ink**; **thin**.



verb to agree at times with an unexpressed subject; just as we say, "That is well done, *considering* the difficulties" (that is, if we *consider* them). Many participles are thus used with the force of prepositions; as, *concerning*, *regarding*, etc., and are known as "participial prepositions"; the phrase *owing to* is classed among "phrase-prepositions."\*

**duplicate,** } "How many words have you in that  
**double.** } article?" "Five hundred." "Well,  
*duplicate* it." No, *double* it; you want five hundred  
more and other words on the same subject; to *duplicate*  
would be to repeat the same matter word for word,  
which is not what is wanted; the carbon *duplicate* is an  
exact reproduction of the original. You may *duplicate*  
an order when the second consignment is to be exactly  
like the first.

## E

**each.** Do not say "*Each* one will find *their* place." *Each* denotes an individual, and is always singular. See EVERY ONE.

é"crû', ê"crû' or ec-rû'.

ed'el-weiss, ed'el-wais or [G.] ê'del-vals.

Ed'in-burgh, pronounced Ed'in-bur-o (ed'in-bur-o).

el'ther, i'dhēr or al'dhēr. The predominance of authority is for i'dhēr. It is related that two disputants agreed to refer this matter to the first man they met, whom one of them accosted with the question, "My friend, is it proper to say *neither* or *nither*?" The stranger, who chanced to be an Irishman, replied, "Why, then, it's *nayther*."

Strictly *either* or *neither* can be used only with reference to two persons or things; of more than two we should say, "*any one* of them" or "*no one* (or *none*) of them."

el'e-men'ta-ry, el'ē-men'tē-ri. } Two very different  
al'i-men'ta-ry, al'i-men'ta-ri. } words (see dictionary). Do not confuse them; never speak of "*alimentary* physics," nor of the "*elementary* canal."

é-lite', ê-lit'.

en"core', ân"cōr'.

**enemy,** } The singular form, *enemy*, may be either an  
**enemies.** } Individual or a collective; as used of an individual, it may take the plural, *enemies*; "He had one *enemy*" or "—many *enemies*." As used collectively, *enemy* denotes an entire hostile force; in this sense it takes no plural, but has itself the effect of a plural; "From the hill I saw the *enemy*"; "The *enemy* fled in all directions"; "The *enemy* lost their guns and bag-

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\* *A Working Grammar of the English Language* (by the author of the present work), pp. 204-205.

papū, gsk; at, āir; element, thēy, usēge; it, ē, î (ee);  
o, ôh; orator, ôr; full, rûle; but,

gage." Do not say, "Grant turned the *enemies'* flank," but "the *enemy's* flank."

**English-speaking.** An excellent phrase to denote persons or peoples who speak the English language without belonging to the English nation, but there are limits to the connections in which the phrase may be used, as indicated by an item in the *Harvard Lampoon*: "That sentence is not incorrect," said the professor, "but it sounds odd to the *English-speaking* ear."

**en'trée',** *dn'trè', not en-tri' nor en'tri.*

**en'voy,** *en'vei,* an ambassador; *not en'vei.* The word *envoy* has long been Anglicized, and is to be pronounced simply as English. The French pronunciation would be *dn'vwd'*; *en'vei* is neither French nor English. There is a word *envoy*, meaning "a postscript or close of a poem or ballad," which is pronounced *en-vei'*; often printed as French, *l'envoi*, and then pronounced *ldn'vwd'*.

**eq'ua-ble,** { An *equable* mind is one that is calm and  
**eq'ui-ta-ble.** } self-poised; an *equitable* decision is one that is fair or just. Study these words in the dictionary and avoid confusing them.

**erroneous.** This word does not contain the letter *i*; *erronious* is a misspelling.

**etc.** A correct abbreviation of the Latin *et cetera*, meaning "and other things," extended also to persons. The form &c. may be used in memoranda, bills of lading, and the like, but never in careful writing. *Ect.* is never correct, and is a sure mark of ignorance.

**e-the're-al,** *e-thi're-al.* *Ethertal* is a variant spelling, less approved.

**every one.** "So *every one* had something to please *them*."—*New York Tribune*, March 22, 1911. How can "every one" be "them"? There are those who take the bold ground that because we have no singular pronoun of common gender, we are justified in using the plural, as numbers of people have long been doing; but this is not conceded by leading grammarians, who hold that in such cases we should use the masculine, and leave the feminine to be inferred,—"*So every one* had something to please *him*." The best way out is to change the construction; say, "So there was something to please *every one*,"—or the like. By a little practise one learns to steer around these pitfalls, even in conversation, and find the open way of some easy and pleasant phrase.

**every other.** "Please leave two quarts to-morrow morning and *every other* morning." How often is he to leave two quarts? The order meant "every *alternate* morning," and was so understood by the milkman; but a lawyer insists that if he had left two quarts *every* morning, he could have collected for it. "Every other day" is a familiar and not objectionable phrase for

**Or; fütüüre** (future); **aisle;** **au** (out); **oil;** **c** (k) **chat;**  
**dh** (the); **go;** **sing, ink;** **thin.**

"every alternate day," but the connection of the phrase with other words needs watching; "*this* and *every other*" seems universal, leaving nothing out. If an employer should say to a clerk, "I expect you to be here at 9 o'clock *to-morrow* morning, and *every other* morning," the clerk would understand that this applied to all working-days, without exception.

**ex-pert'**, ex-pert', *a.* }

**ex'pert**, ex'pert, *n.* }

**ex'qui-site**, ex'cwiz-it, *not* ex-cwiz'it.

**ex'tra-or'di-na-ry**, ex'trēr'di-nā-ri or ex'tra-ēr'di-nā-ri.

## F

**fal'con**, fē'cn or fal'cōn.

**few**, { The phrase *a few* indicates a more considerable number than the simple adjective *few*; "*A few* were found by careful search" (that is, a number worth mentioning); "*Few* were ever found" (that is, scarcely any—a number so small that it may be almost disregarded).

**fī'an-cē'**, *masc.* }

**fī'an-cée**, *fem.* }

**fleur'de-lis'**, flūr'-dē-lī'.

**for, at, to dinner**. "We will have a friend *for dinner*" would imply that the "friend" is to be eaten; say, "We will have a friend *at dinner*," or "We have invited a friend *to dinner*."

**fore'head**, fer'gd, *not* fōr'hed *nor* fer'hed.

**found**. See now.

**fräu'lein**, frei'lain, *not* frē'lain.

**fron'tier'**, fren'tīr or fren'tīr, the former preferred.

## G

**gal'lant'**, gal'ant, *a.* Brave or chivalrous.

**gal-lant'**, *a.* Attentive to women.

**gal'lant'**, gal-lant' or gal'ant, *n.* A man of fashion; beau.

**Gal'ves-ton**, gal'ves-tōn, *not* Gal-ves'ton.

**gar'age**, gār'āj or [F.] gār'āzh'. Many use the Anglicized pronunciation, to rime with *carriage*; others prefer to bring over the pronunciation of the French language, from which the word is taken, and say gār'āzh'. There is authority for either.

**gas-tri'tis**, gas-trā'tis or -trī'tis.

**gib'bet**, jīb'et, *not* gib'et.

**glad'i-o-lus**, glād'i-ō'lus.

**gla-di-o-lus**, gla-dai'o-lus or -dī'o-lus. { *Gla-di-o-lus* is the word used in science, as for the botanical genus; *glad'i-o-lus* is the popular and recognized name for a single plant or flower of the genus.

**papā**, gsk; **at**, āir; **element**, thēy, usēge; **it**, ī ī (ee); **o**, ōh; **orator**, ēr; **full**, rūle; **but**, Digitized by Google

**go'ing, gō'ing.** "I'm *going* to go." *Am going to* (he is, we *are going to*, etc.) is a correct idiom, properly expressing more than the simple future, meaning, "I am about to," "am on the point of," etc.; sometimes expressing fixed decision; as, "I *am going* to stand by my promise." But in some combinations the phrase is awkward; "I *am going to go*" involves a disagreeable repetition, which is always to be avoided; "I *am going to come* here in the morning" gives a sense of contradiction between *go* and *come*. Good taste avoids all such combinations. Where the simple future means as much, say, "I will"; otherwise, "I intend to," or some similar phrase, will avoid awkward combinations.

**gos'pel, ges'pel, not ges'pil nor ges'pul.**

**gran'a-ry, gran'a-ri, not grên'a-ri.**

## H

**hardly, scarcely.** { Quasi-negative adverbs, either of which joined with a negative lacks little of making an affirmative; "*hardly* unperceived" means "almost, or almost surely, visible"; "*scarcely* unconscious" signifies "almost, or almost surely, conscious." "Nothing would more surely unite in a common cause the various contentious factions and *scarcely unaffiliated* races of Mexico than the general belief in that country that the United States contemplated invasion of its territory."—*New York Times*, March 14, 1911. "*Scarcely unaffiliated* races" lack little of affiliation; the writer meant "the *scarcely affiliated* races of Mexico."

**ha'rem, hê'rem, not har'em nor har'um.**

**hau-teur', hō-tūr'.**

**had, hadn't.** { "You *had* (or *hadn't*) ought to." See OUGHT.

**have.** "I should like to *have* gone." See LIKE.

**have got to, must.** { "Have got to" is a forcible colloquialism, often effective because common;

also, perhaps, because it supplies a longer and more mouth-filling phrase, in place of the brevity of *must*. Yet the whole law of best usage is against employing three words where one will do. "I *must*," "You *must*" are more elegant than "I *have got to*," "You *have got to*," and not less but more vigorous and effective.

**he.** See PRONOUNS.

**hed'on-ism, hed'en-izm or hî'den-izm.** Authorities differ; each speaker is free to choose; THE STANDARD DICTIONARY gives *hed'en-izm* the first place. The derivatives are: *he-don'ic, hed'o-nism, hed'o-nist, hed'o-nis'tic.*

**he don't, it don't.** *Don't* is a contraction of *do not*, and we can not say, "he *do not*," "it *do not*"; the correct form is "he *doesn't*," "it *doesn't*," or in question, "*Doesn't* he?" "*Doesn't* it?" etc.

**ör; flütjüre (future); aïsle; au (out); øil; c (k); chat; dh (the); go; sing, ìnk; thin.**

**her'ald**, her'ald. Give the first syllable the sound of *e* in *met*, never of *e* in *her*; the newsboys make little difference between *Hur'ruld* and *Wur'ruld*.

**ho'mo-nym**, hō'mo-nim or hem'o-nim.

**hur-rah'**, hū-rā' or hur-rā', not hū-rē' (hoo-ray').

**hy'gi-ene**. In best usage *three* syllables, not *two*. The adjective is **hy'gi-en'ic**, *four* syllables, with the primary accent on the *en*.

**hyp'o-chon'dri-ac**, hip'o-cen'dri-ac or hai'po-cen'dri-ac.

**hys-te'ri-a**, his-tī'ri-a.

## I

**I am** { **yours truly**. "*I am*," if this is your first letter to that correspondent; "*I remain*" if you have previously written.

**i-de'a**, ai-dī'a; never *i'de-a* (ai'di-a) nor *i-dee'* (ai-dī'); *three* syllables, with the accent on the second syllable.

**i-de'al**, ai-dī'al; never ai'di-al nor *i-deel'*; *three* syllables, with the accent on the second syllable.

**I don't think so**. "Never say, '*I don't think*,'" exclaims the purist; "any rational person is always thinking." Doubtless, my dear purist; but not always thinking *the same way that you do*. Consult your dictionary and you will find that *think* has more than one meaning; it may mean "to carry on the process of thought," in which sense we are "always *thinking*"; or it may mean "to entertain a particular opinion," in which sense I may *never think* your way. You *think* that tree is a maple; I *do not think* (entertain the opinion) that it is; in other words, "*I don't think so*."

In that case, would it not be better to say, "*I think not*"? That depends on what you mean. The two expressions are not identical; "*I don't think so*" means I am doubtful of the affirmative; "*I think not*" means I am almost sure of the negative.

**If I were you**. "Were" in this expression is not the indicative plural agreeing with "you," but the subjunctive singular agreeing with "I"—one of the few remaining forms of the subjunctive in English, in which *were* is used for the first and third persons singular, as well as for the plural, giving "If I *were*, if he, she, or it *were*." *Were*, so used, always implies that the fact is otherwise; "If I *were* a dog, I might bay the moon"; "If he *were* here, I would tell him to his face." A misuse of this construction gives a false sense to a verse in the Authorized Version of the Scriptures; "Though he *were* a Son" (*Heb.* v, 8) should be "though he *was* a Son." The two uses are contrasted: "If the watch *were* here (as it surely is not), I should see it;" "If the watch *was* here (as it may have been), it is gone."

papū, gsk; at, āir; element, thēy, usēge; it, î, î (ee); o, ōh; orator, ōr; full, rûle; but,

**immanent, } Immanent** (L. *in*, *in*, and *maneo*, re-  
**imminent. }** main) signifies "indwelling"; as, "God  
 is *immanent* in the universe. *Imminent* (L. *in*, *in*, and  
*mineo*, threaten) signifies "threatening; about or likely  
 to happen immediately"; this word is always used in an  
 unfavorable sense; we do not speak of *imminent* success,  
 but of *imminent* peril. Neither word is to be pronounced  
*im'mun-nunt*, im'mun-unt.

**impedimenta.** A Latin military term, denoting all  
 encumbrances that *impede* the movements of troops. It  
 does not apply to natural obstacles, as streams, moun-  
 tains, mud, etc., but to things the army might carry, as  
 tents, baggage-wagons, and other movables. The word  
*impedimenta* is now in accepted military use in America,  
 just as it was in the armies of Cæsar.

Following the issuance of general orders to-day by Major  
 General Carter in which brigade and regimental command-  
 ers were directed to begin "the elimination from the divi-  
 sion of all unnecessary *impedimenta* and its reduction to  
 the least point consistent with an efficient performance for  
 field service," confidential instructions went out to all regi-  
 ments to be prepared for an active field campaign on a  
 minute's notice.—*New York Herald*, March 18, 1911.

**impractical, } Two words ignorantly confounded;  
 impracticable. }** *impractical* is the negative of *practi-*  
*cal*, and is rare in good use, *unpractical* being preferred;  
*impracticable* is the negative of *practicable*. A *practical*  
 method is one which works in actual practise; a *practicable*  
 method is one which could probably be made to work; that  
 is *practicable* which can be made *practical*. We may say,  
 "That is possible, but not *practicable*"; that is, it could  
 be done, but with so much disadvantage or difficulty as  
 not to be worth while in practise; on the other hand, we  
 may say, "That is theoretical, but not *practical*"; that  
 is, it has no connection with actual practise. Whether  
 you mean "not *practical*" or "not *practicable*" deter-  
 mines which negative you should use; if you mean "not  
*practical*," the best word is *unpractical*. An *unprac-*  
*tical* (or *impractical*) man is a mere scholar, dreamer, or  
 theorist; an *impracticable* man is one whom nobody can  
 work with. To get gold from sea-water is *impracticable*.

The tact which perceives the line that divides the *prac-*  
*ticable* from the *impracticable*. GARDINER *Students'*  
*History of England* vol. iii, ch. 48, p. 676.

**in'de-co'rous, in'de-co'rus** or (less approved) in-dec'-  
 o-rus.

**in'dex-es, in'dex-es, } Two plurals of *index*. The plu-  
 in'di-ces, in'di-siz. }** *in'di-ces* refers to scientific or  
 mathematical signs, or the like; *indexes* to alphabetical  
 lists. Do not say, "The book has several *indices*," but  
 "several *indexes* of topics," etc.

### Infinitive.

The Split Infinitive: May we split the infinitive? As

**ŭr; flŭtjŭre** (future); **aisle; au** (out); **œll; e** (k); **chat;**  
**dh** (the); **go; sing, ink; thin.**

yet you will do it at your peril, but the time may come when it will be an esteemed luxury. The traditions are against it, but the demands of convenience and force may be too strong for the traditions.

A practice that seriously handicaps the police in their efforts to stamp out this form of crime [“Black Hand” outrages] is the failure of persons threatened to *promptly notify* the department of the receipt of threats. It is the duty of every citizen to help protect himself by *promptly notifying* Police Headquarters when a crime is threatened or committed.—*New York Herald* (editorial), Feb. 2, 1911.

It will be seen that not quite the same force could be given by writing “failure *promptly* to notify” or “failure to notify *promptly* the department.” Why? Because the approved rule in English is that the adverb shall be placed as close as possible to the word it is to modify, and no connection is so close as after the *to* and before the *notify*, “to *promptly* notify.” “Failure *promptly* to notify” gives a suggestion that “promptly” is connected with “failure”; “to notify *promptly* the department” leaves the “promptly” in a seemingly impossible connection with “department.” We might very properly say, “to notify the department *promptly*,” but then we have put “promptly” very far away from “notify,” with a certain loss. (Note the similar expression “by *promptly* notifying” that follows in the extract.) The analogy of English use with other parts of the verb is to put the adverb between the auxiliary and the principal verb: “You will *promptly* notify”; “I have *often* thought”; “I shall be *greatly* obliged.” There is a strong tendency to follow a like method with the infinitive:

It may be easier to bear along all the qualifications of an idea than to *first imperfectly conceive* such idea, etc.  
HERBERT SPENCER *The Philosophy of Style* pt. iii, par. 28.

Where force and clearness are gained by using the “split infinitive,” there seems no reason for objecting to it, but much for using it. In some cases, however, there is a decided gain in keeping the adverb separate, as; “You will need to go *instantly*”; “to *instantly* go” would be feeble and harsh in comparison. Do not use the “split infinitive” without good reason; use it without fear, if it adds clearness and force.

**inflection.** { Both forms are in recognized use, but *in-*  
**inflection.** } *flexion* is becoming more common, after  
the analogy of *affection*, *connection*, etc. See X.

**in hopes.** “I was *in hopes* he would explain”—a familiar phrase for “I hoped” or “I was hopeful,” etc. The phrase *in hope* is not now used, though it is difficult to tell why not, since we say “in fear”; the idea may be that this was among my *hopes*. “In *hope*” was formerly in good use.

*In hope* . . . that preaching . . . would prove gainful.

MILTON *Hirelings*.

papā, ask; at, air; element, thēy, usēge; it, î î (ee);  
o, ōh; orator, ēr; full, rûle; but,

I was in hopes you would have shown us our own nation. ADDISON *Misc. Works.*

**in-quir'y**, in-cwair'i. There is no authority for the pronunciation in'qui-ry (in'kwī-ri).

**in'ter-est-ed**, { Accent on first syllable only; not in'ter-in'ter-est-ing. } est'ed, in'ter-est'ing; do not cut down to in'trest-ed, in'trest-ing.

**iron**, ai'urn.

**irony**, ai'ro-ni.—**ironic-al**, ai-rən'ic-al.

**-ise**, { The spelling of words ending in the sound aiz is in  
**-ize**. } much confusion; *advise* is practically always spelled with *-ise* and *baptize* with *-ize*; many of the words are spelled either way on equally good authority. The only rule to meet the difficulty is, "when in doubt, consult the dictionary." In some future generation simplified spelling may come to the rescue.

**is'o-late**, is'o-lêt or ai'so-lêt.

## J

**John Jones**. Many foreigners find it hard to get the sound of the English *j*, and say *ch* instead,—"*Chon Chones*." "Can I have a *chob*?" the immigrant asks, and thus instantly proclaims himself a foreigner. It is only necessary to remember that the English *j* combines the sound of *d* with that of *ch*—*dch*. This may be impressed on the mind by writing a small *d* (<sup>d</sup>) before the *j*; thus: <sup>d</sup>John <sup>d</sup>Jones. The attempt to say the *d* puts the vocal organs in the right position to say the *j*. Soon one comes to think "the little *d*" whenever he has occasion to utter the *j* sound. Then practise such words as *Jack*, *James*; *jangle*, *Jenny*, *jet*, *jewel*, *Jim*, *jingle*, *jockey*, *joke*, *judge*, *Julia*, etc., till the sound is fixed in mind and utterance.

**judg'ment**, { juj'ment, not juj'munt. The spelling  
**judge'ment**, { *judgment* is widely preferred in modern use.

**ju-di'cial**, ju-dish'al, { That is *judicial* which per-  
**ju-di'cious**, ju-dish'us. } tains to law or justice; that is *judicious* which is wise or prudent; it may not be *judicious* to institute *judicial* proceedings.

**ju've-nile**, jū've-nil; jū've-nail less approved.

## K

**kept**, kept. Do not shorten to "kep."

**kin'der-gar'ten**, kin'der-gär'tn, not kin'der-gär'-den. The spelling *kindergarden*, sometimes found, is inaccurate, as a mixture of German and English.

**know**, { Either is correct, but they mean different  
**know of**. } things. I *know* my friend; I may *know of* a stranger whom I have never met. It is related that a

**ör**; fiütjäre (future); aisle; au (out); øil; c (k); chat;  
dh (the); go; sing, ink; thin.



lady was asked, "Do you know Esperanto?"—to which she replied, "Oh, I can't keep up with all these new breakfast foods." She not only did not *know* the language, but did not *know* of it.

## L

**lab'o-ra-to'ry**, lab'o-ra-tō'ri, *not* lab'ra-to'ri.

**lar'yn-gl'tis**, lar'in-jai'tis *or* -gl'tis.

**lau'da-num**, lā'da-num, *not* lēd'num.

**laugh**, lāf, *not* laf.

**less**, } "There were *less* men on Bunker Hill than in  
**fewer**. } front of it." That is not what is meant; there were *fewer* men on the hill than in front of it, but the results of the battle showed that the Americans were in no way *less* than their antagonists. *Less* refers to quantity, measure, or degree; *fewer* to number; but we may say, "a *less* number," just as we would say, "a *smaller* number," thinking of the "number" as one measurable total. "*Less* in number" is not, however, a desirable expression; the correct phrase is "*fewer* in number."

**Le-vant'**, lē-vānt' *or* lē-vant'. Accent the final syllable.  
**lev'er**, } The authorities are divided; the STANDARD and  
**le'ver**. } Century prefer *lev'er* (lē'vēr); Smart, Stormonth, Webster, and Worcester prefer *le'ver* (lē'vēr); *lev'er* seems to be generally favored in America; so the derivative *lev'er-age*.

**liberty**, } *Freedom* is the nobler word. *Liberty* sug-  
**freedom**. } gests *liberation*; *freedom* recognizes nothing to be *liberated* from: "I was born *free*."

**lie**. *Lie*, to rest, must be distinguished from *lay*, to put in a place of rest; but *lie*, to rest, must also be distinguished from *lie*, to falsify, thus:

<i>Present</i>	<i>Past</i>	<i>Past Participle</i>
<b>lie</b> (to rest)	lay	lain
<b>lie</b> (to falsify)	lied	lied

An editorial note in a Western paper says, "Since his late accident the editor of our contemporary, the *Cañon Screamer* has been compelled to lie only on his left side. We learn that he is now recovering, and will henceforth be able to lie as usual."

**like** (verb). "I should *like* to have gone." Do you mean that you would *like* now to have gone then? Probably not; at that time your wish would have been to go. To express that, say, "I should *have liked* to go."

**lit'er-a-ture**, lit'ēr-a-chur *or* -tjūr.

**lit'ter-a-teur'**, lit'ēr-a-tūr', a literary man. Do not confuse with *literature*, literary productions.

**lux-u'ri-ant**, lug-zhū'ri-ant *or* lux-yū'ri-ant.

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papū, gæk; at. āir; element, thēy, usēge; it, ġ, î (ee);  
o, ōh; eratør, ēr; full, rŭle; but,

M

**ma-dras'**, ma-drgs'.

**Mag'na Char'ta**, mag'na cār'ta—a Latin phrase.

The second word is not to be pronounced as *Charter* (chār'tēr). If you wish to make the phrase English, say, "*The Great Charter*."

**Ma-ni'la**, mā-nī'la, the capital of the Philippine Islands; not *Ma-ni'la* (Ma-nī'lā).

**many**. The phrase *a great many* is idiomatic; it resembles a collective noun, but takes only a plural verb; as, "*A great many were missing*." Another idiom is *many a*, which has the effect of a distributive plural,—*many* considered one by one; the phrase properly takes a singular verb; "*many a man has tried in vain*." "*Many a man*" is more widely inclusive than "*many men*"; "*many a time*" than "*many times*."

**mar'i-time**, mar'i-tīm or -tāim.

**mas'sage**, mas ēj or mqs-sāzh'.

**mas'seur'**, mqs'sūr'.

**mat'ri-cide**, mat'ri-said.

**ma'tron**, mē'trōn or mō'trōn.

**may'on-naise'**, mē'en-nēz'.

**mem'oir**, mem'wēr.

**men'in-gi'tis**, men'in-jai'tis or -gi'tis.

**mer'can-tile**, mēr'cān-tīl; mēr'cān-tail is less approved.

**mile**, { *Mile* is a noun denoting distance, *mild* an adjective signifying "moderate, gentle," etc. Yet in some parts of New England these two words are confused, and persons say, "He ran a *mild*," or the like.

A very fruitful source of error in language is the supposition that there can not be two words nearly alike in sound, but widely different in meaning and use; those who know one infer that the similar word must be the same and make it over or misuse it accordingly.

**mon'o-plane**, men'o-plēn.

**most**. Never use for *almost*; not "*most everybody*," "*most always*," but "*almost everybody*," "*almost always*." The former use is a colloquialism.

**mu-se'um**, mīū-zī'ūm, not mīū'zī-ūm.

**musk'mel'on**, musk'mel'ōn.

N

**na-ive'**, nā-iv'; does not rime with *knave*.

**naph'thol**, naf'thōl or -thel.

**na'tion-al**, nash'un-āl; so na'tion-al'i-ty, etc.

**née**, nē.

**neither**. See EITHER.

**No more than possible**. "I will spend *no more than possible*." Probably not, for to "*spend more than possible*" would be impossible. This construction is a false reversal of "*as much as possible*," which with the

ŭr; fīūtjŭre (future); aīse; au (out); ōil; c (k) chat;  
dh (the); go; sing, īpk; thīn.

negative gives an absurd meaning. Say, "I will spend *no more than is necessary*," or "I will spend *as little as possible*."

**non sequitur.** A Latin phrase signifying, "It does not follow," used as a noun for an inconclusive argument, false inference, etc.; never to be spelled *non sequiter*.

"**Not at all**," in answer to "Thank you." That is not what you mean; you do not wish to repulse or disclaim courteous thanks. "Not at all" properly answers "I am obliged (or much obliged) to you," for you do not wish another to feel under *obligation* for a favor done. The true answer to "Thank you" is "You are welcome."

**no'ted**, nō'tēd.

**no'ta-ble**, nō'tā-bl.

**no-to'ri-ous**, nō-tō'ri-ūs. } That which is *noted* is widely and favorably known; that which is *notable* deserves to be noted; that which is *notorious* is widely and unfavorably known; as, a *noted* battle-field, a *notable* victory, a *notorious* impostor.

**now.** The correct vowel sound in this word is a diphthong (au), which should be clearly given. In some parts of the country it is common to hear a corrupt pronunciation, *naow* (naau), which similarly appears in all associated words: "Come on *naow*." "No, I'm going *daown* *taown*." "Well, come *aout* to see me when you can." This faulty utterance has a disagreeable, animal effect. It is the caterwauling sound. In giving the pure sound the lips are rounded and the tongue depressed so as to touch the lower teeth. In the false sound the lips are not rounded nor the tongue depressed; hence the clear, round tone can not pass. This any one can see by trying the two forms of utterance before the glass. It will be hence observed that the *naow* is a lazy form of utterance, in which the speaker does not take the trouble to open the mouth—what in singing is called "want of control." The full, round tone is more musical and more capable of sustained effect. To utter the pure sound requires a certain vigor and decision—but these are necessary elements of all good speech. Avoid the easy drawl. Have no vestige of the sound of *a* in *cat* when you would say *brown*, *down*, *found*, *out*, *round*, *sound*, *south*, *town*, etc. Do not say, "This will be *faound* true withaout a *daoubt*."

# ○

**o'a-sis**, ō'a-sis. } The STANDARD, Webster, and Worcester  
**o-a'sis**, ō-ē'sis. } prefer *o'a-sis*; the Century and Stormouth prefer *o-a'sis*.

**ob'li-ga-to'ry**, eb'li-gā-tō'ri or eb-lig'a-to'ri.

**of**, followed by a noun in the objective case, forms a phrase equivalent to the possessive case; "the welfare *of the*

**papā**, gask; **at**, āir; **element**, thēy, usēge; **it**, ĭ ĭ (ee);  
**o**, ōh; **orator**, ōr; **full**, rūle; **but**,

*nation*" = "*the nation's* welfare." This often enables us to avoid cumbrous phrases. "The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge's publications" is intolerably awkward. But we have a remedy by the use of *of*:—"The publications *of* The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge." See POSSESSIVES. For a special form with *of*, see "THAT CHECK OF THOMPSON'S."

**on account of him failing.** No: "on account of *his* failing." You do not mean "on account of *him*," but "on account of the *failing*." Whose failing? "Why, *his*." That is it. When the participle is used as a noun (as here), it takes the possessive, just as if you were to say, "on account of *his* failure."

**op'por-tune', ep'pqr-tiŭn'.**

**op'por-tu'ni-ty, ep'pqr-tiŭ'ni-ti.**

**or**, connecting subjects that require different persons or numbers of the verb: "Either you *or* I am (are) wrong"; "Either they *or* he was (were) here"; "This man *or* those men are (is) guilty." There is no way to get the awkwardness out of such expressions; the rule is that the verb shall agree with the nearest subject; but then we seem to be saying "you am," "they was," "this man are." It is better to change the construction, saying, "Either you are wrong *or* I am," etc. Then the verbs will take care of themselves. Observe that *or* does not pluralize connected subjects, as *and* does; "A woman *and* a child (two persons) *are* lost," but "A woman *or* a child (one of the two) *is* lost." See PLURALS.

**ordinance,** { An *ordinance* is a law; *ordnance* signifies  
**ordnance.** { cannon, collectively. *Ordinance* is never to be spelled *ordonance*, though there is a word *ordonance*, now used chiefly as a technical term in art (see dictionary). *Ordinance* are to be fired; *ordinances* enforced.

**Orinoco**, not *Oronoco* (as seen in certain advertisements).

**ought**, the verb for duty, is severely simple, and can never take *have*, *be*, *do*, or any other auxiliary; expressions like "I *had* ought," "I *hadn't* ought," "You *don't* ought," etc., are always erroneous. To express past obligation use the simple *ought* unchanged, but followed by the *perfect infinitive* of the verb required; as, "I ought to *have gone*."

**out.** See **now**.

**over and above.** Frequently used as a form of emphatic iteration, but objectionable as tautological, since *over* and *above* in this phrase mean the same thing. **Beyond and above** gives a distinct advance of thought,—extension (*beyond*) and elevation (*above*); the phrase is sometimes reversed, *above and beyond*.

**Ov'id, ev'id**, not *O'vid* (Ō'vid), a Roman poet.

**ox'y-gen, ex'i-jen.** Never *oxogen*, trade names to the contrary notwithstanding.

**ŭr; fŭtŭrē** (future); **aisle**; **au** (*out*); **œl**; **e** (k); **chat**; **dh** (*the*); **go**, **ing**, **ink**; **thin**.

## P

**par'ent**, pār'ent; the pronunciation pē'rent, common in some localities, is recognized by some authorities, but the preponderance is for pār'ent.

**park**, pār'k, *not* pēr'k. Many guards and conductors seem to call out "Pork place," "Pork street" for "Park place," "Park street."

**participle**. "*Having discovered* the art of printing music with movable types."—*Biography*. Well, what did he do then? The sentence has no verb; the phrase "having discovered" seems to lead up to some following action, but finding no verb we come to a jumping-off place. A participle, without a leading verb, can not make a sentence.

**pas'se-par'tout'**, pās'-pār'tū'.

**pas'tor**, *not* paster; a *pastor* (pās'tər) presides over a church; a *paster* (pēst'ər) is something ready gummed for pasting on to some surface; the right to use *pasters* on ballots has been disputed.

**pa'ti-o**, pā'ti-ō, the inner open court of a Spanish or Spanish-American dwelling.

**pa'tois'**, pā'twā', *not* pē'tois.

**pat'ri-cide**, pat'ri-said.

**pa'tri-ot**, pē'tri-ət *or* pat'ri-ət.—**pa'tri-ot'ic**, pa'tri-ot-ism.

**pa'tron**, pē'trun *or* pat'run.

**pe'o-ny**, pī'o-ni.

**per-pet'u-ate**, pēr-pech'u-ēt *or* -pet'yu-ēt. } To *perpet-*  
**per'pe-trate**, pēr'pē-trēt. } *uate* is "to  
make perpetual"; to *perpetrate* is "to do or accomplish,"  
in a bad sense; we do not *perpetrate* a charity or a suc-  
cess, but a blunder or a crime.

**pha'e-ton**, fē'e-tən.

**phar'ma-ceu'tic**, fār'ma-siū'tic *or* -kiū'tic.

**pi-an'ist**, pi-an'ist.

**ple'na-ry**, plī'na-ri *or* plen'a-ri.

**pleth'o-ra**, pleth'o-ra.—**ple-thor'ic**, plē-thēr'ic *or* pleth'o-ric.

## Plurals.

Rule for collective nouns: A collective noun, as *audience*, *congregation*, *family*, *flock*, *multitude*, *people*, *public*, etc., though singular in form, may take a verb either in the singular or the plural number, according as it refers to the objects included as one aggregate or as separate individuals; as, "The audience *was* large"; "The audience *were* divided in opinion."\* A recent editorial in *Collier's Weekly*, protesting against criticisms of certain newspapers upon the editor's use of "flock" with a plural

\* See *A Working Grammar of the English Language* pp. 15, 294.

papū, gsk; at, āir; element, thēy, usēge; it, ĭ, î (ee);  
o, ōh; oratør, ēr; full, rûle; but,

verb, gives the following apt quotations illustrating the propriety of such use:

In early times the great majority of the male sex *were* slaves.—JOHN STUART MILL.

The public *do* not always *agree* with the newspapers.—WILLIAM HAZLITT.

The populace *were* now melted into tears.—DAVID HUME.

Note the following peculiar construction:

The ministry availed *itself* of *their* triumph. GREEN *History of the English People* vol. ix, p. 107. [F. & W.]

An error of an unusually careful and lucid writer. "Ministry," as a collective noun, may be *either* singular or plural in construction, but not *both at once*; either "The ministry availed *itself* of *its* triumph" or "availed *themselves* of *their* triumph"—preferably the former, since the triumph was that of the ministry as a body, and not of the individuals composing it.

*Three-fourths* of any man's fame *are* mere suggestion." No; "three-fourths *is*." You are not thinking of three separate fourths, but of the total that those make up, one aggregate equaling *three-fourths*.

"A man of high abilities { *is* } needed." The verb does not necessarily agree with the nearest noun. Here the plural noun "abilities" is the object of the preposition "of," and can not be the subject. It is the *man* that *is* needed.

"The Methodist and the Baptist Church (*churches* ?)." *Church* is correct; "the" before "Baptist" keeps the singulars apart, each by itself; "church" is expressed with "Baptist" and understood with "Methodist"; but it would be correct to say, "The Methodist and Baptist *churches* are unlike the Presbyterian (*church*)."

See SPECIES and WITH.  
pop'lar, pop'lar. } Careless pronunciation often  
pop'u-lar, pop'yu-lar. } shortens *popular* into *poplar*;  
the three syllables of *pop-u-lar* should be distinctly  
given; a *poplar* tree; a *popular* idea.

por-tent', pör-tent'. } Authorities are divided.  
por'tent, pör'tent.  
por'tière', pör'tiär'.

### Possessives.

"*Dickens*' or *Dickens's* novels?" A noun ending in *s* properly takes another *s* with the apostrophe to form the possessive, and *Dickens's novels* is the preferred form. So, "*Pepys's Diary*," "*James's* heir," etc. Some exceptions are commonly made; as, "for *conscience's* sake," "for *Jesus's* sake," where the apostrophe alone is added. Also in words of many syllables, where the added syllable with *s* would have a disagreeable effect; as, "*Empedocles's* sandals," "*Themistocles's* services," instead of "*Empedocles's* sandals," "*Themistocles's* services."

ür; fütüüre (future); aisle; au (out); öil; e (k); chat;  
dh (the); go; sing, ink; thin.

Often we may avoid a disagreeable combination by using the objective with *of* in place of the possessive; thus, instead of "The *hippopotamus's* skin is thick," we may say, "The skin of the *hippopotamus*"; instead of "*Aristophanes's* comedies," "The comedies of *Aristophanes*." See *OF*.

"Wealthy manufacturer demands report on his *father's-in-law* death."—*Headline in New York Herald*, March 1, 1911.

This should be "his father-in-law's death"; phrases and compounds take the *'s* at the end of the whole expression; as, "*Liddell and Scott's* Greek Lexicon." But there is a limitation upon this. Cumbersome and awkward phrases are to be avoided, as may readily be done by the use of the phrase with *of*. See *OF*.

"The *horses* feet were sore." Where will you put the apostrophe? That depends on what you mean. If you refer to one *horse*, write "the *horse's* feet"; if to more than one, "the *horses'* feet." The apostrophe precedes the *s* for the singular, but follows the *s* for the plural. How may this be indicated to the ear? This can not be done by the possessive, but we can do it perfectly by using the equivalent phrase with *of*; then we may say, in the one case, "the feet of the *horse*"; in the other, "the feet of the *horses*." "*Mens* and *Boys* Clothing." Where shall we place the apostrophes here? The rule is simple. The few English words that form the plural in *-en*, as *men*, *women*, *children*, *oxen*, form the possessive by adding *'s*—the apostrophe before the *s*—*men's*, *women's*, *children's*, *oxen's*. Hence we have "*Men's* and *Boys'* Clothing."

**possible.** See NO MORE THAN POSSIBLE.

**pot"pour"ri', pō'pū'ri'.**

**pre-ce'dence**, prē-sī'dēns, the act of preceding.

**pre-ce'dent**, prē-sī'dēnt, *a.* Preceding or antecedent.

**prec'e-dent**, prēs'ē-dēnt, *n.* An antecedent fact or usage.

**prel'ate**, prel'ēt, *not* prī'lēt.

**pre-mise'**, prē-maiz', *v.*

**prem'ise**, prem'is, *n.*

**preposition.** "Never end a sentence with a *preposition*." Why not? "It's not allowed by Latin grammar." But we are speaking English. It is allowed in German grammar, and our language is at base Germanic. "Well, *preposition* means something *placed before*, so it can not come last." Yes, and *interjection* means something *thrown between*; yet the *interjection* is often the very first word in the sentence: "*Oh*, where shall rest be found?" The old Latin names of parts of speech prove nothing. They were made on the wrong side of the English Channel. "What did you come *for*?" is perfectly good English; it is not necessarily equivalent

papā, ask; at, āir; element, thēy, usēge; it, ĩ ĩ (ee);  
o, ōh; orator, ōr; full, rūle; but,

to "*Why* did you come?" *Why* asks for a reason; *what* refers to an object; the answer might be "*For* a book." The relative *that* must be followed by its preposition if any is used; "I know the man *that* he talked *with*"; we can not say, "the man *with that* he talked," and "the man *with whom* he talked" is more formal and less vigorous than the other phrase. The inseparable prepositions must often come at the end of a sentence; "That is a thing to be laughed *at*"; we can not say, "That is a thing *at* which to be laughed." English likes the preposition at the end of the clause or sentence. The schoolboys have paraphrased the rule to read, "Never use a preposition to end a sentence *with*." Literature is full of this vigorous sentence-ending.

Three things a man is most likely to be cheated *in*—a horse, a wig, and a wife.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN *Poor Richard's Almanac*.

The soil out of which such men as he are made is good to be born *on*, good to live *for*, good to die *for*, and to be buried *in*.

LOWELL *Among My Books, Second Series, Garfield*.

(If you want to take the life out of that, say, "good *on* which to be born," etc.)

I count life just a stuff

To try the soul's strength *on*.

ROBERT BROWNING *In a Balcony* l. 642.

The usage will outlast the grammarians who are afraid of it; there is nothing here to be afraid of.

### Prepositional Phrases.

No clews have been found to identify the man who shot the mule. Mr. Phillips has offered \$50 for the arrest of the person with evidence to convict.—*Atlanta Constitution*.

Singular that a "person with evidence" should be arrested! Prepositional phrases, like adjectives and adverbs, should be placed as near as possible to the words they are meant to modify, and by no means so placed as to modify words not intended. In this case there is no place in the sentence for the words "with evidence," etc.; the sentence must be reconstructed so as to read, for instance, "for the arrest of the offender *and for evidence* to convict him."

**prescribe**, } To *prescribe* is "to order, direct"; to *pro-*  
**proscribe**. } *scribe* is "to reject, forbid, outlaw." *Pre-*  
*scription* and *proscription*, *prescriptive* and *proscriptive*  
are similarly distinguished.

**pres'en-ta'tion**, prez'en-tê'shun.

**pres'i-dent**, prez'i-dent, *not* prez'i-dunt.

**pret'ty**, prēt'i or prīt'i.

**proc'ess**, pres'es. The pronunciation *pro'cess* (prō'es)  
is allowed, but the weight of authority is for *proc'ess*.

**pro-duce'**, pro-dūs'. } *Prod'uce* is the noun, cor-  
**prod'uce**, pred'ūs or -yūs. } responding to the verb  
*pro-duce'*. If your ground *pro-du'ces* well, you will have  
much *prod'uce* (pred'ūs).

**or**; **flūtiġure** (future); **aisle**; **au** (out); **oil**; **c** (k); **chat**;  
**dh** (the); **go**; **sing**; **ink**; **thin**.



**pro'gram**, prô'gram, *not* prô'grum *nor* prô'grm. Since the final *-me* was dropped from *programme*, many have had the idea that the pronunciation was also shortened, and with some this has become a fad. The pronunciation is the same whether the spelling is *programme* or *program*; the final *-gram* is to be clearly given as in *anagram*, *monogram*, *telegram*, etc.

**pro-gress'**, pro-gres', *v.* } The pronunciation  
**prog'ress**, prog'res *or* prô'gres, *n.* } *prog'ress* (prô'gres)  
 for the noun is allowed, but the weight of authority is  
 for *prog'ress* (prog'res).

**prom'ise**, prem'is, *not* prem'us.

**pronouns.** Watch that every pronoun has an antecedent to which the mind may, and must, refer it without confusion. Thus you will avoid such blind labyrinths as the following:

"Alfonso XIII." says the helpful and instructive *Woman's Home Companion*, "was the son of Alfonso XII., who died five months before he was born, at the age of twenty-eight."—*Kansas City Star*.

Here "he" would naturally refer to the same antecedent as "who"; hence the astounding quality of the statement. Even when one sees the joke, and has studied out the real meaning, the sentence is a little hard to correct. The best way is, no doubt, to break off, and begin anew; say: "The father died at the age of twenty-eight, five months before the son was born." Not only avoid the confusion of pronouns, but by all means avoid the association of the words, "born at the age of twenty-eight"; such combinations should not be left at the mercy of a comma.

**pro-nun'ci-a'tion**, pro-nun'si-ê'shun *or* -shi-ê'shun.

**pseu'do-nym**, siû'do-nim.

**puls'ne**, plû'ng.

**py-ram'i-dal**, pi-ram'i-dal.

## Q

**quay**, ki *or* cwê.

**queue**, kiû.

**quin'in**, cwin'in.

**quin'ine**, cwin'in *or* cwin-ain'. } This is one of the few  
 words on which one  
 can scarcely go wrong. For almost any pronunciation  
 of this word some authority may be produced; it is pronounced as above and also ki-nin', cwai'nain', cwi-nin', cwin'ain, and cwi-nain' by various lexicographers; the two pronunciations given in the headline are perhaps to be preferred.

## R

**rac'e-mose'**, ras'g-môs', *not* ra-si'môs.

**ra'ti-oc'i-na'tion**, rash'i-es'i-nê'shun, *not* rê'shi-.

**rapā**, gask; at, āir; **element**, thêy, naêge; **it**, î; î (ee);  
**o**, ôh; **orator**, ôr; **full**, rûle; **but**,

**ra'tion**, rê'shun or rash un. Authorities differ. THE STANDARD DICTIONARY gives first place to rê'shun.

**ra'tion-al**, rash'un-ul. So **ra'tion-al-ism**, **ra'tion-al-ist**, **ra'tion-al'i-ty**, **ra'tion-al-ly**.

**ra'ti-o-na'le**, rash'o-nê'li or -ug'lê. This is a word taken directly from the Latin, meaning "a rational or reasoned exposition of principles"; pronounce the final *e*; do not make the final *-nale* one syllable (-nêl), to rime with *snail*. It is not necessary to use the word, if one can not pronounce it.

**re-cess'**, rê-ses', *v.*

**re-cess'**, rê-ses' or rî'ses, *n.* }

**rê"chau'fé'**, rê'shō'fê', *n.* A rehash.

**re-cher"ché'**, rê-she'r'shê', *a.* Sought after; choice; rare.

**rec'i-pe**, res'i-pê.

**rec'i-ta-tive'**, res'i-ta-tiv'.

**re-course'**, rê-côrs', not rî'côrs.

**reflection**. The form *reflexion* is recognized, but now little used. See X.

**rê'gime'**, rê'zhîm', not rej'im nor rej'i-mê.

**reg'i-men**, rej'i-men.

**Re-nais"sance'**, rê-nê'sâns'.

**rep"er-toire'**, rep'er-twêr'.

**re-search'**, rê-sêrch', not rî'sêrch.

**re-source'**, rê-sôrs', not rî'sôrs.

**rê"su"mé'**, rê'zû'mê'.

**re"tro-cede'**, rî'tro-sîd' or ret'ro-sîd.

**rev"eil-le'**, rev'el-f' or rê-vê'lyê.

**rib'ald**, rib'ald.

**rinse**, rins, not rens.

**rise**, raîz, *v.*

**rise**, raîs or raîz, *n.* }

**ro-bust'**, ro-bust', not rô'bust.

**ro-mance'**, ro-mans', not rô'mans.

**round**. See NOW.

## S

**salm'on**, sam'un.

**sa"lon'**, sô'lôn'.

**same**. "The same" is much used in legal documents, and now commercially; but the phrase must be kept in close connection with the word or phrase it is to identify; otherwise unfortunate inferences may result, as in the following:

"Dear teacher," wrote the mother, "kindly excuse John's absence from school yesterday afternoon, as he fell in the mud. By doing *the same* you will greatly oblige his mother."

*Same* is often improperly used without the article; as, "*Same* should arrive next Tuesday"; "Send *same* by

**ûr**; **flûtiqûre** (future); **aisle**; **au** (out); **oil**; **c** (k); **chat**; **dh** (the); **go**; **sing**, **ink**; **thin**.

express." This may be tolerated in a memorandum or a telegram, but not in a formal letter or other document.

**sa"vant'**, sq"vǎn'.

**scarcely**. See **HARDLY**.

**scen'ic**, sen'ic or sf'nic.

**sed'a-tive**, sed'a-tiv.

**se'nile**, sf'nīl or -nail.

**shone**, shōn or shen.

**si'ne-cure**, sai'nē-kiūr or sin'ē-kiūr.

**sleek**, slīk, *not* slīk.

**slough**, slɒf. **I. v.** To cast off, as dead tissue. **II. n.**

Something cast off, as the dead skin of a serpent.

**slough**, slau, **n.** A quagmire.

**so"bri"quet'**, sō'brī'kē'.

**sol"rée'**, swǎ'rē'.

**souf"flé'**, sū'flē'.

**sound**, } See now.

**south**, }

**sou"ve-nir'**, sū'və-nīr'.

**spe'cie**, spī'shē or spī'shī-f. }

**spe'ci-es**, spī'shī-fz or spī'shēz. } "I don't know of what *specie* the bird is."

Well, one thing is certain; if it is a bird of *specie*, it can not fly; for *specie* is coin, as gold or silver. A *species* is a sort, kind, or group, as of plants or animals. *Species*, like *series*, is both singular and plural,—one *species* or many *species*; there is no more reason for making a singular *specie* for *species* than there would be for making a singular *serie* for *series*. A number of false singulars have been so invented. In old times in New England *chaise* was supposed to be plural, and a singular was created for it, whence we have "The Wonderful One-Hoss Shay." *Pulse* ("a pulsation") is in some localities supposed to be plural, while in fact it is singular, and has a distinct plural, *pulses*.

**squal'id**, scwel'id.

**squal'or**, scwel'ər or scwē'lər.

**stu'dent**, stiŋ'dent.

**stu'di-ous**, stiŋ'dī-us.

**stu'pid**, stiŋ'pid.

**sub'tile**, sub'til, delicate, refined. }

**sub'tle**, sut'l, crafty. }

**suède**, swéd.

**suffragette**, { As used in connection with woman  
**suffragist**. } suffrage, a *suffragette* is one who is seeking the franchise, a *suffragist*, one who has and exercises it; but a *woman suffragist* is one—whether man or woman—who advocates suffrage for women.

**suit**, siŋt; as, a *suit* of clothes. }

**suite**, swīt; as, a *suite* of rooms. }

**su'mac**, sū'mac or shū'mac.

**sur-veil'lance**, sūr-vêl'yans or sur-vê'lans.

**syn'od**, sin'əd.

**papā**, qsk; at, āir; **element**, thēy, usēge; **it**, î î (ee);  
**o**, ôh; **orator**, ôr; **full**, rûle; **but**,

**T**

**tap'es-try**, tap'es-tri, *not* tē'pes-tri.

**tar-pau'lin**, tār-pē'lin.

**te'di-ous**, tī'di-us.

**tet'rarch**, tet'rārc or tī'trārc.

**than**. The one English adverb of comparison; "This is better *than* that." Foreigners often mistake the construction; the German inclines to say, "better *as* that," following the idiom of his own language. *Than* is now never recognized as a preposition, unless possibly in the phrase "*than* whom," which has good literary authority, and for which no substitute can be found. *Than* may be followed either by the nominative or the objective, but with a difference in meaning: "He likes you better *than I* (like you)." "He likes you better *than* (he likes) *me*." There is always a verb to be supplied; think what that verb is, and you will know what case to use.

*Than* must correspond with the construction. Do not say, "This left the road as bad, if not worse, *than* it was before"; for the construction "as bad *than* it was before" is impossible, and the "as bad" hangs in the air with no conclusion. The full construction would be, "as bad *as*, if not worse *than*, it was before." But this is very harsh and forced. It is better to say, "He left the road as bad as it was before, if not worse" ("*than* it was before" being understood).

**"Thank you."** An accepted phrase in place of the more formal, "I thank you." "Thanks" is much used, but is too curt and abrupt, and seems like "Resp'y y'rs" before a signature (never used by good writers), an attempt to get through a necessary acknowledgment in the shortest way, which destroys all courteous flavor. "Thanks" may do on a street corner or in leaving a car, but there is generally time to say the better "Thank you." Compare NOT AT ALL.

**"that check of Thompson's."** An accepted English idiom. The *possessive case* of any noun is ordinarily exactly equivalent to the phrase formed by the preposition *of*, followed by the same noun; the *merchant's* house—the house *of the merchant*. In some cases the two are combined, making a kind of double possessive; as, "That check *of Thompson's*." "That *Thompson's* check" would be awkward; "That check *of Thompson*" would seem a little flat; so the two are combined in a forceful phrase, "That check *of Thompson's*." Some have supposed an ellipsis of a plural object, "That check *of Thompson's* (checks)." But no such explanation can be given of "this head *of mine*," "this heart *of mine*," which are in good literary use. English does use a possessive after *of* in such cases by the right of long-established custom, constituting what is called an *idiom*.

**ŏr**; flūtjŏre (future); **aisle**; **au** (out); **oil**; **c** (k); **chat**; **dh** (the); **go**; **sing**, **ipk**; **thin**.

**that,** { "The property or person *which* is the subject **which.** } of the insurance."—*Encyclopedia*. A very awkward expression, because we can not say, "the person *which*." All such difficulties are relieved by the use of *that*, which may apply equally to persons or things: "the property or person *that*," etc.

**to dinner.** See **FOR**.

**ton**"sil-lī'tis, ten'sil-lai'tis or -lī'tis: also spelled **ton**"sil-lī'tis.

**tour**'na-ment, tūr'na-ment, *not* tōr'na-ment.

**town.** See **NOW**.

**trap**'e-zoid, trap'g-zoid.

**trem**'or, trem'qr, or (less approved) trī'mqr.

**trī**'cot, trī'cō.

**trous**"seau', trū'sō'.

**Tues**'day, tūz'dē, *not* Tooz'day (tūz'dē) *nor* Chewz'day (chūz'dē). The full sound of the English long *u* (tū) as in *dew*, *few*, *new*, is a little difficult to give after *t*; hence, to speak it correctly is a mark of education and culture. Let any one attempt to say rapidly, "I will *meet* you," and he will find a strong tendency to say, "I will *meschoo* (mī'chū)," the initial *y* sound of the *you* fusing with the preceding *t*. The same tendency leads some persons, in the attempt to be very accurate, to say *Chewz'day* (chūz'dē), while others harshly say *Tooz'day* (tūz'dē). "Will those shoes be ready by *Chewzday*?" asked the exquisite. "No, sir, not before *Churzday*," replied the shoemaker. The true pronunciation is very easy; simply put a *y* before the *u*; this may be represented to the eye thus: Tuesday; or in the scientific alphabet tūz'dē.

**tune**, tūn, *not* tūn (as if spelled *toon*); *tune* does not rime with *moon*.

**Tyr**'ol, tīr'ol.

## V

**vase**, vês or vûz; vêz is also used; vês decidedly predominates in American use.

**vaude**'ville, vōd'vil.

**ven**'i-son, ven'zn or ven'i-zn.

**ver**'bi-age. "I do not object to the *verbiage* of the resolution." Well, if there is "*verbiage*," you should object to it, for *verbiage* means "excess of words," akin to *verbosity*. Say, the "wording" or the "language" of the resolution.

**very**. Originally used to intensify, this word often weakens. "That is very well done" is a mild compliment, unless you emphasize the "very," and say "*very* well done." "That is well done" is stronger and better than any use of "very" can make it.

*Very* does not readily join with participles, except in a few instances; we may say "*very* tired" or "*very*

papd, ask; at, air; element, thêy, usêge; it, î, î (ee); o, ôh; eratqr, ôr; full, rûle; but.

determined," but not "very impressed," "very influenced or interested," "very astonished or surprised," nor "very pleased" with such participles; some intervening word, like *much* or *greatly*, is needed; as "very much impressed, interested, influenced, or pleased"; "very greatly astonished," etc.

vi'o-len-cel'lo, vi'o-len-chel'lo or vai'o-len-sel'lo.

## W

**were.** See IF I WERE YOU.

**who.** See PRONOUNS.

**will I come in?** We do not know. You are the only one who can answer that question. *Will*, in the first person, denotes intention,\* and you only know your own intentions. Hence, never use *will* interrogatively in the first person. Say, "Shall I come in?" *Shall*, in an interrogative sentence, asks for the consent or approval of the person addressed, and so becomes a polite and elegant form. Do not say, "Will we go in to dinner?" Your friends do not know your intention; "Shall we go to dinner?" asks for their consent or approval; "Does it suit you?" or "Are you ready to go to dinner with me?"

**with.**—"The man with his two sons were present." No: "*was* present"; "man" is the only subject; "sons" is in the objective case, the object of the preposition *with*; "The man *was* present *with* his two sons." The subject might be made plural by using the conjunction *and* instead of the preposition *with*; "The man *and* his two sons *were* present." The addition of a noun or a pronoun following *with* does not pluralize the subject.

**woman,** { With reference to organizations and move-  
**women.** { ments, the singular (*woman*) is commonly preferred, as, "The *Woman's* (not *Women's*) Christian Temperance Union"; "*woman* suffrage," not "*women* suffrage." *Woman*, so used, is generic, denoting all woman-kind, just as *man* is generic in the sentence "*Man* is mortal." But we say, "Votes for *women*"; there are to be as many *women* as there are votes for them; "Votes for *woman*" might suggest plural voting; but "The ballot for *woman*" is correct. We may say either "a *woman's* college" or "a college for *women*," but not "a *women's* college." "*Woman's* nature" is the nature inseparable from womanhood; "*women's* opinions" are the opinions of a large part of the sex, thought of as individuals.

\*A very full explanation of *shall* and *will* may be found in *A Working Grammar of the English Language* pp. 141-144.

ür; fütjüre (future); aïsle; au (out); øil; c (k); chat; dh (the); go; sing, ink; thin.

## X

The sound of *x* does not always indicate the letter, as in *affection, connection, reflection*, etc. In some cases both forms are allowed. See INFLECTION. The true spelling must be learned from the dictionary.

## Y

**yolk**, yŏk or yŏlk.

**you are, were**, etc. In using the plural form for the second person singular, the *form* remains *plural*, both in pronoun and verb; *you* can never take *is* or *was*; say always, and only, *you are* or *you were*, even if referring to a single person.

**youths**, yŭths (plural of *youth*).

## Z

**zo-di'a-cal**, zo-dai'a-cal.

**zo-ol'o-gy**, zo-el'o-ji.—zo'o-log'ic-al.—zo-ol'o-gist.

*Zoo* is a jocosse or perhaps an ignorant popular abbreviation for *zoological* garden or park.

papā, ask; at, āir; element, thēy, usēge; it, ġ. ġ (ee); o, ōh; orator, ōr; full, rūle; but, ūr; fūture (future); aisle; au (out); ol; c (k) chat; th (the); go; sing, ink; thin.



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